



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE
OF
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

VOL. VIII.

OCTOBER, 1900.

NO. 2.

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF JEFFERSON.

(From Originals in Collection of Virginia Historical Society.)

[TO R. H. LEE.]

Philadelphia, July 29, 1776.

Dear Sir:

I inclose you Dr. Price's* pamphlet. I should have done so sooner but understood your brother was sending many to Virginia and not doubting one would be to you, I laid by the one I had purchased for that purpose. little new here now. Our camps recruit slowly, God knows in what it will end; the finger of Providence has as yet saved us by the retarding the arrival of Ld. Howe's recruits. Our army from Canada is now at Tyconderoga, but in a shattered condition. General Sullivan left it & came here to resign on Gates's appointment, his letter of resignation was put in on Friday, it was referred to this morning that a proper rap of the knuckles might be prepared, but on the

* Richard Price, D. D., author of "Observations of Civil Liberty and the Justice and Policy of the War with America" (London and Boston, 1776), for which he received the freedom of the city of London, and, in 1778, was invited by Congress to become a citizen of the United States.

advice of his friends he asked leave to withdraw it & repair to his duty. The minutiae of the Confederation have hitherto engaged us; the great points of representation, boundaries, taxation, &c., being left open, for God's sake, for your country's sake, & for my sake, come. I receive by every post such accounts of the state of Mrs. Jefferson's health that it will be impossible for me to disappoint her expectation of seeing me at the time I have promised, which supposed my leaving this place on the 11th of next month. The plan of * * is yet untouched. After being read it was privately printed for the consideration of the members & will come on when we shall have got through the confederation. I am, Dr. Sir.

Pray you to come, I am under a second obligation to go home.

[TO R. H. LEE.]

Monticello, Aug. 30, 1778.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 16 & Aug. 10 came safely to hand. I am in great pain for the French fleet; operations by land I have more confidence in. What are we to think of the hand bill said to have been circulated by Mr. Mauduit* and published in our papers as certified by your brother? is it genuine? if they really are coming to their senses at last, and it should be proposed to treat of peace will not Newfoundland fisheries be worthy particular attention to exclude them & all others from them except our tres grands & chers amies & allies, their great value to whatever nation possesses them is as a nursery for seamen. in the present very prosperous situation of our affairs I have thought it would be wise to endeavor to gain a regular & acknowledged access in every court in Europe but most the Southern. The countries bordering on the Mediterranean I think will merit our earliest attention, they will be the important markets for our

*Jasper or Israel Mauduit, London merchants, who represented Massachusetts in England immediately before the Revolution. Israel Mauduit published pamphlets denouncing the conduct of Lord Howe and Sir William Howe in Boston.

great commodities of fish (as Roman catholics), wheat, tobacco & rice. the two last commodities particularly may be vended in any quantity in Turkey. This power is moreover likely to be in our scale in the event of a general war. Emigrants too from the Mediterranean would be of much more value to our country in particular than from the more Northern countries. They bring with them a skill in agriculture & other arts better adapted to our climate. I believe that had our country been peopled thence we should now have been farther advanced in rearing the several things our country is capable of producing to negotiate a general reception & on good terms for our capital commodities with these powers & to deduce from thence a number of settlers, I think would be of great & immediate value. I have been led the more to think of this with frequent conversation with Mazzei,* whom you know well & who is well acquainted with all those countries, do you not think he might be usefully employed thither to act in conjunction with Mr. W. Lee, wherever he should be? his connections in Tuscany are good, his acquaintance with capital men there in Rome & Naples great, he also resided some years in Constantinople where he contracted a knowledge of the customs of the Country, the mode of doing business there & of some respectable characters which might perhaps render him more able to be useful to us than many others; to some of these places perhaps your brother would not chuse to go. I believe he would be particularly active in procuring emigrants which I own is with me almost as great an object as trade. Our own country wants nothing but skilful labourers to raise with success wine, oil & silk. from the Levant & Archipelago we might hope to have introduced together with the people many useful plants, esculant, medicinal & for manufacture and arts, useful tho' as yet unknown to us, if his integrity

* Philip Mazzei, an Italian physician, born in Tuscany, came to Virginia in 1773, and settled on an estate called Colle, not far from Monticello. The plan here proposed by Jefferson was carried out, and in 1779-83, Mazzei was agent for Virginia in Italy. Several of his letters, written during the course of this business are in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society. Perhaps he may have secured some military stores; but it does not appear that the other objects, as outlined by Jefferson, were attained.

did not of itself ensure his zeal, his real & pure principals of republicanism would do it. he is a good economist besides & would render the agency but little expensive, as I imagine he might make such a tour & return within the year. he must be very unsuccessful indeed should he procure us no benefit which would compensate to us the expense of a few hundred pounds. perhaps it might be well to render the powers of such an agent subordinate to our principal commissioners & to authorize them to direct the plan of his proceedings, *ex re nata*. having no news to write you I scribble these thoughts for your consideration, perhaps in your station you may mould them into something for the public good.

I am Dr. Sir Your friend & Serv^t,

TH. JEFFERSON.

To Richard Henry Lee,
The Virginia Delegation, Philad^a.

—
[To ———?]

Richmond, Sep. 13, 1780.

Dear sir:

The clearing the bay of the pickeroons which infested it was attended to the moment the brig Jefferson was in tolerable readiness about the 3rd or 4th week of the last month. Commod. Barron cruised up the bay as far as Tangier Island and took five of these vessels which being as many as he could man he returned about the 1st inst. I received a l^{re} from Gov. Lee desiring we would join two brigs fitting out at Baltimore & to sail the 9th inst. for clearing the bay, accordingly ordered the Jefferson & the boats Liberty & Patriot to join the Marylanders; they sailed from York for that purpose on the 12th inst. Since this I have heard nothing from them, but their instructions were to sweep the bay & it's waters clean of this trash & I have no doubt it is done & the vessels properly taken care of which have insulted your neighborhood. One difficulty, say impossibility, is to get men. The terms of the assembly were proposed. Not a single man could be engaged. We then calculated that the bounty (converted into a daily pay of three years) the cloath-

ing allowed by law converted into a daily sum & both added to the daily pay would do, these amounting to about 10 dollars per day, a few men were raised for the cruise & on these terms aided by volunteers (mere lands men) engaged for the special purpose of going up the bay, we have been able to send the brig & boats on these two small expeditions, but the Commodore assures me that with such a crew the brig is in danger of being taken by very inferior vessels.

The Thetis is getting into readiness, the two Eastern shore gallies are to be brought over but we have no prospect of men for them. I see no remedy for them but for the Legislature to measure prices with the merchants & give what they give. We sent expresses to every county in the State about a fortnight ago to put a stop to purchase of spirits, indeed the prudence of the Commodore in most of the counties had stopped it before, finding the quantity so much beyond what the legislature or executive could have been supposed to have expected; our two millions are all exhausted, large debts are contracted for the horses purchased for the cavalry & waggons which were sent on with the maryland troops & our militia. These waggons which with those belonging to N. Carola. were 400 in number being all lost* we are now obliged to get 200 more with team & geer till which we have it not in our power to send any thing to the Southern army who are suffering greatly. The loss of every tent has been a circumstance of great distress. The loss of all the small arms not less so. The new recruits are now collecting. To these will be added the delinquents & fugitives of the late militia now become 8 months men & 1000 good western militia from the counties of Fauquier, Loudon, Frederic, Berkely, Hampshire, Shenandoah, Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge. This I think will be a reinforcement of about 4000 men besides the delinquents & fugitives whom I apprehend can never be got to fight, but without aid from congress they cannot be armed. Your intelligence from Philadelphia is so much more direct & punctual than mine I do not attempt to give you news from that quarter. We have nothing from the Southward since what was published

* At Gates's defeat at Camden, August 16, 1780.

in the last Week's paper. Colo. Morgan goes hence this morning for the Southern camp.

The application requisite to the duties of the office I hold is so excessive, and the execution of them after all so imperfect that I have determined to retire from it at the close of the present campaign. I wish a successor to be thought of in time who to sound Whiggism can join perseverance in business and an extensive knowledge of the various subjects he must superintend. Such a one may keep us above water even in our present moneyless situation.

I am with great Respect & esteem Dr. Sr.

Your most obed^t humble Serv^t,

TH: JEFFERSON.

[To R. H. LEE.]

Paris, Feb. 7, 1789.

Private.

Sir: By the Marquis Fayette we received information of your appointment to the chair of Congress, on which testimony of their esteem permit me to offer you my congratulations. We are on the point here of the great decision of War or peace. Yet very few in deed are those who can say which it is to be. The most impenetrable secrecy is observed. Were we to judge from the movements of the parties (and we have nothing else to judge by with certainty) we should expect war, hitherto the subject of dispute has seemed simple enough, but just now they are throwing out another barrel for the political whales to play with. This is a supposed exchange of the Bavarian dominions for the Austrian Netherlands founded on no other authority but that of the public papers. The circumstances to which are connected with this barter of men and Kingdoms contribute to lessen its credibility. The British Ministry seemed absorbed in preparation for their Parlimentary Campaign & in them to have forgotten us. We have long and daily expected to hear from them. if this does not happen soon it will be necessary on our part to press on them the subjects of discussion which was distinct from the proposition of amity and commerce. We are in hopes to

hear from Congress by the next packet in answer to our letter of November, the Pyratial States require something to be immediately done. We are not however to believe all the lying paragraphs of the English papers as to their supposed hostilities against us. These are framed in London to justify their demands of high insurance on our vessels. I know of no sufficient cause to believe the capture of more than one of our vessels, however we may reasonably expect other captures and that they will considerably extend their cruising grounds. Our objects go on slowly however important it is to urge them, with the West India Powers it is impossible to do this. We can meet in negotiation. We have hitherto made it a point to keep the next move resting with them, except in a very few instances when particular circumstances rendered delay eligible. I hope we shall ere long get things more under away. I send you a pamphlet on the foreign commerce of the W. Indies. Many of the most able characters in this country agree in opinion with this author, but the mercantile interest is so distinctly & clamorously opposed to it that the minister will see hazard in the innovation proposed. I hope we shall not be long before we enter on business with Denmark. We have had intimations that Sweden awaits more particular information as to the island of St. Bartholomew before she will be ready to meet us on the subject. I shall be happy to hear from you when convenient. What Congress does & what they do not do is interesting to us. The proceedings of the Assemblies, dispositions of the people, likelihood of additional strength to the federal head & other public events are very desirable to us, cut off as we are from a general view of American transactions. Letters come most safely & much most speedily by the French packet. They are read indeed, if not confided to the care of a passenger, but that is an evil they incur in what ever way they come.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^t
& most humble Serv^t,

TH. JEFFERSON.

To his Ex. R. H. Lee.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART.]

Monticello, Oct. 30, 1794.

Dear Sir:

I received some time ago your favor on the subject of Mr. Dowthwaite. Soon after that he called on me himself. I should have been glad to have served him for the double motive of wishing well to his enterprise, and for the interest you take in his success, but it seemed that he wished me to address the assembly either directly or indirectly on his behalf, this I could not do. A total retirement from all intermeddling with publick affairs & public bodies is my object, besides that such an application to the assembly from me would have been as impertinent as ineffectual. I have lodged with Col^o Bell two barrels of sweet potatoes for you. I think you told me they did not succeed well on your side the mountain, hope therefore they may merit acceptance. I have been flattering myself that something might draw you downwards this season, & that I should have the pleasure of seeing you here. I still indulge the expectation, because, if eventually unfounded, it is in the meanwhile a pleasing one. I am endeavoring to collect money to purchase two or three score of sheep, should I succeed I propose to trouble you with the commission—perhaps you can in the mean time have your eye on those that are for sale, not making any bargain however as experience has taught me never to trust with certainty to the collection of money. I congratulate yourself & all good republicans, on the complete success of the French in this campaign, for, in this, *res nostra agitur*. My best regards to Mrs. Stewart, and am with sentiments of great esteem, D^r Sir,

Your sincere friend & serv't,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Archib. Stewart, esq.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART.]

Monticello, Dec. 2, 1794.

My Dear Sir:

I now place in the hands of Col^o Bell, in Charlottsville, fifty dollars to be forwarded to you, and have to ask the favor of you

to purchase me sheep to that amount—the moment you notify me that they are ready I will send off for them, so as to receive them from the seller and not give you so much trouble with them as you had with the last purchase; perhaps I may at the same time send a further sum, for a further purchase, but of this I am not sure, I therefore can only ask you to have your eye on a score more. I am in the moment of the departure of the post & therefore have only time to add assurances of the sincere esteem of Dear Sir,

Your affectionate friend & serv't,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Archibald Stuart, esq.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART.]

Monticello, Feb. 19, '95.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 17th is duly received with the turnips & rape, there is quite enough of both to answer my purpose; and indeed of the latter I have obtained an additional supply. I concur readily in your proposition respecting the Spanish sheep, and have this day written to Mr. Morris to know if any circumstance has occurred which might disappoint us of getting them. I may expect his answer in a month, and you shall then hear from me. I inclose you my notes on the subject of pot-ash. I am persuaded that your contemplation of the subject will end in your adopting the business, and be a means of introducing it among us. we have had a hard winter since you left us. I am afraid we shall lose a great deal of our wheat by the frosts. I need not write news to you who read the public papers so much more than I do. I am with great affection, D^r Sir,

Your sincere friend & serv't,

TH. JEFFERSON.

A. Stuart, esq.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART.]

Monticello, May 26, '96.

Dear Sir:

Two or three days before the receipt of your favor of the

20th, I had received a letter from Mr. John Stuart, of Greenbrier, accompanied with a leg bone and two joints of the toe of the animal mentioned in your letter, they are of a species not yet known most certainly, and the animal must have been as pre-eminent over the lion, as the big buffalo was over the elephant; the bones are too extraordinary in themselves, and too victorious as evidence against the pretended degeneracy of animal nature in our continent, not to excite the strongest desire to push the enquiry after all other remains of the same animal which any industry can recover for us. I will take the liberty therefore of hoping a continuance of your efforts through Mr. Cavendish, or any other channel, to procure that of the bones you can & that information of them may be obtained in hopes of further materials to make the first communication of the discovery as complete and exact as we can. I shall delay the preparing & forwarding the account of it for some time, and shall be happy to learn from you as soon as you can judge yourself whether anything further may be expected. I am with great esteem,
Dear Sir,

Your affectionate friend & serv't,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Archibald Stuart, esq.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART. ?]

Monticello, Apr. 25, 1801.

Dear Sir:

I wrote on the 8th inst. to ask your recommendation of an attorney & Marshall for the Western district of this state, but I learn you were absent on your circuit. on the enquiry I have been able to make, I have appointed Mr. John Monroe, attorney, but I cannot decide between Andrew Alexander, John Alexander, & John Caruthers, recommended by different persons for the Marshall's office. Pray write me your opinion to which appointment would be most respected by the public, for that circumstance is not only generally the best criterion of what is best but the public respect can alone give strength to the government. I set out tomorrow to take up my residence in Washington

where I shall hope to receive a letter from you. Accept assurances of my sincere esteem & respect.

TH. JEFFERSON.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART.]

Monticello, Aug. 5, 1801.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Caruthers, to whom I addressed the commission of Marshall for the Western district of Virginia, having been late in signifying his declining the office, some inconvenience may perhaps have arisen from the long vacancy. I have now proposed it to Col^o Andrew Moore with but little hope however of his acceptance. in case of his declining the two who stand most recommended are a capt. Crowdson, of Woodstock, by yourself, and a Mr. Joseph Grigsby by two or three others. Will you be so good as to give me, by return of post, your opinion between these two persons. I have brought a blank commission with me, which will enable me to supply the office as soon as I know whether Col^o Moore will accept. I shall be here till the last of September and happy to see you should anything lead you this way. Accept assurances of my sincere friendship & high consideration.

TH. JEFFERSON.

Arch. Stuart, esq.

[TO ARCHIBALD STUART.]

Monticello, Nov. 14, '11.

Dear sir:

We have safely received the cask of timothy seed as also the very excellent parcel of butter which you have been so kind as to send us, for which be pleased to accept my thanks or perhaps I should more properly request you to tender them with my respects to Mrs. Stuart. You have, days since, seen the most excellent, rational & dignified message of the president &

the documents accompanying it, in these you see the British government have openly avowed that they will enforce their orders of council, that is, will keep exclusive possession of the ocean until France will allow her manufactures to go in the ships of other nations into the continent of Europe & France herself, altho she does not permit, even in time of peace the manufactures of any nation to be brought to England in other ships but of the nation manufacturing them, in the mean time she is taking all our vessels, which is all the war she can make on her side. And indeed the style of Fosters correspondence is altogether a style of defiance. Always affectionally yours,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Judge Stuart.

[To —— ?]

Monticello, May 20, 1818.

Dear Sir:

Our fathers taught us an excellent maxim, never to put off tomorrow what you can do to day, by some of there degenerate sons this has been reversed by never doing to day what we can put off tomorrow, for example I have been more than a year intending to send you a Merino ram *next week*, and week after week it has been put off still to *next week* which, like tomorrow was never present. I now however send you one of full blood, born of my imported ewe of the race called Aguenes by the imported ram of the Paular race, which belonged to the Prince of Peace was sold by order of the junta of Estremadura, was purchased and sent to me in 1810 by Mr Jarvis our Consul at Lisbon. the Paulars are deemed the finest race in Spain for size & wool taken together, the Aguenes superior to all in wool, but small. Supposing the season with you has not yet given you peas, the opportunity has enticed me to send you a mess. I have not yet communicated your hospitable message to Mr. Madison but shall soon have an opportunity of doing it. to my engagement I must annex a condition that in case of an adjournment to Charlottesville you make Monticello your head quarters, but

in my opinion we should not adjourn at all and to any other place rather than to either of those in competition.* I think the opinion of the legislature strongly implied in their avoiding both these places, and calling us to one between both. My own opinion will be against any adjournment as long as we can get bread and water and a floor to lie on at the Gap, and particularly against one Westwardly, because there we shall want water; but my information is that we shall be tolerably well off at the Gap; that they have 40 lodging rooms and are now making ample preparations. A waggon load of beds has past thro Charlottesville, which at that season however we shall not need. I will certainly however pay you a visit, probably on the day after our meeting (Sunday) as we shall not yet have entered on business. Be so good as to present my respects to Mrs. Stuart and to be assured of my constant friendship.

TH. JEFFERSON.

* This refers to the meeting of the "Board of Commissioners for the University." This body was created by Act of Assembly, February 21, 1818, with direction to meet on the 1st of August, at the tavern in Rockfish Gap in the Blue Ridge, and select a site for the University, and make all plans, rules and regulations necessary.

The Commissioners present at the meeting in August were: Creed Taylor, Peter Randolph, William Brockenbrough, Archibald Rutherford, Archibald Stuart, James Breckenridge, Henry E. Watkins, James Madison, Armistead T. Mason, Hugh Holmes, Philip C. Pendleton, Spencer Roane, John M. C. Taylor, John G. Jackson, Thomas Wilson, Philip Slaughter, William H. Cabell, Nathaniel H. Claiborne, Thomas Jefferson, William A. G. Dade and William Jones; and their report, fixing the place of the University at Charlottesville, and giving a plan for its conduct, was printed in the *Journal of the House of Delegates*, 1818-19, pp. 9-16.